

We are for these things: whatever helps most of us even at the expense of some of us

Editorials . . .

WE SEE IT THIS WAY

We are against these things: whatever helps some of us at the expense of most of us

Meredith symbol: which to accept?

(Delta Democrat-Times
Greenville, Miss.)

James Meredith's announcement that he would probably leave the University of Mississippi at the end of this semester does not come as much of a surprise.

There have been persistent reports for several months that the strain of attempting to be a student in an almost totally hostile environment was going to be too much for him, as it would be for almost any man.

Thus after the expenditure of millions of dollars, the death of two men and the near-destruction of a university, total segregation in Mississippi will again emerge triumphant.

But the question of James Meredith's withdrawal or continued presence at Ole Miss, insofar as it pertains to an individual, is not important. What is important is the effect his action has on future

events. The possibilities here are what disturb us, for his withdrawal at this time can easily have the effect of strengthening those who would still have Mississippians believe that total segregation can be preserved.

In the face of inevitable court orders as more Negro students apply for admission, it cannot. To persist in believing that it can, and acting on this belief, is only to invite future Oxfords, future bloodshed, future blights on the state's future. Raging defiance took a toll at Ole Miss and Oxford — and in Mississippi — which no number of temporary victories can efface.

James Meredith as a symbol of desegregation on the one hand, and now of segregation's seeming victory on the other is not nearly as important as James Meredith the symbol of responsible men's failure.

The fact that he is no longer at Ole Miss will not destroy that

symbol, which is one all of us would do well to remember in the coming months. For we are going to be tested again — and this it takes no prophet to foresee — not merely at one isolated university campus but here, there and everywhere.

If we draw the wrong lessons from the entire matter of James Meredith, if we allow the fact of his withdrawal to cloud the more meaningful fact of his admission and the price at which it was accomplished, then we will see Oxford repeated again and again across the state.

There are those who would welcome this, and some of them sit in high places in our state's government or control those who sit there, but we cannot believe the majority of decent Mississippians can regard such a possibility with equanimity. James Meredith is apparently leaving the scene, but there will be other James Merediths. It is up to us to see to it that there are no more Oxfords.



"TELL ME MORE ABOUT THOSE RUGGED WINTERS IN THE OLD DAYS."

... Mr. Irving P. Delmas an inspector on dredging whose reputation in that is very good, indeed ...



under
THE
EDITORS
DESK

By Ira Harkey

We were very flattered, swelled up a bit, when Howard

Heflin of the Jackson County Toastmasters Club asked us to be speaker at the club's annual banquet.

We passed the word to the kind man that we are the world's champion nonspeaker and would louse up his whole occasion.

Then the thought came to us — maybe that's why they asked me, as sort of a "before" specimen, to indicate the great need for their organization.

★ ★ F

Billy Snider sends in a clip from our news story that tells of Kiwanis Club 1962 achievements—including a Sea Scout ship, Boy Scout troop, Cub Scout pack and Key Club—and appends the note: "Attny General Kennedy should have this investigated."



The 125,000 Mississippians engaged in manufacturing in April topped March by 1500 and exceeded the April, 1961, level by 9100. The largest gain over the twelve-month period was in the apparel industry—up 2700.

Of still greater significance is the fact that heavy goods categories picked up 5600 workers, including 1500 in transportation equipment, 1100 in machinery, 800 in miscellaneous durable goods, and 700 each in furniture and metals. "Most of these industries," said the commission, "pay above-average wages." Smaller gains were reported in food, rubber and leather.

(Pascagoulans of a much earlier date were as concerned with dredging their channels as are those of 1963. The following letter was found among the effects of the late Mrs. Hermes F. Gautier. It was sent to us by Pascagoula port director Al S. Johnson.)

United States Engineer Office,
No. 150 St. Frances Street,
Mobile, Alabama, June 9, 1899

Brig. Gen. John M. Wilson,
Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army,
Washington, D. C.

General:

I have the honor to forward herewith abstract of bids opened by me on May 25, 1899, for dredging at Pascagoula River and Horn Island Harbor, Miss. A copy of each bid received is also enclosed. I have delayed forwarding these bids, as the lowest bidder, Mr. A. C. Delmas, was unknown to me and I thought it best to inquire as to his plant Xc., before reporting to the Department.

The specifications call for a price per cubic yard for all material measured in scow and disposed of in certain ways. Mr. Rittenhouse Moore, representing the Rittenhouse Moore Dredging Co., makes protest (verbally) against the Delmas bid: that it is not in accordance with the specifications in that two prices are bid, the highest being for the work to be done under appropriation now available viz: that at Horn Island Harbor.

The lower price is bid for that for which no funds are available, and the time when funds will be available is uncertain. He makes a second point; that there are four guarantors, each justifying in the sum of \$4,000.00, instead of two, each justifying the sum of \$8,000.00.

Mr. Delmas wrote me before putting in his bid, asking if four

guarantors each for \$4,000.00, instead of two for \$8,000.00 each would be allowable. I answered him that I thought it would be permitted. If this is a fatal error, it is my error. Mr. Moore makes a third point: that Delmas gives no description of his plant. On inquiry of Mr. Delmas concerning his plant, I found that he had no plant. He then told me that he would at once secure a plant and report.

On the day following the opening of the bids Mr. Delmas made a verbal application to withdraw his bid without prejudice to himself. I explained that I had no authority to permit this, and allowed him until Monday, May 29th, to secure a suitable plant. On application, this time was extended to Thursday, June 1st.

On this day Mr. Delmas came into the office and showed me a paper in which Mr. Chas. Clarke, a contractor at Sabine Pass, Tex., gave him (Mr. Delmas) an option on a plant consisting of one dredge, two dump scows—capacity, 250 cu. yds., each—and tug "Josephine." I wrote to Captain C. S. Riche, Corps of Engineers, Galveston, Tex., about this plant, understanding that it was at Galveston; and after finding out that it was at Sabine Pass, to Major James B. Quinn, Corps of Engineers, New Orleans, La., and to Assistant Engineer J. L. Brownlee, Sabine Pass, Tex. I received replies, which are inclosed.

It would seem from Mr. Brownlee's statement that the plant is a fairly good one. I do not understand, however, that Mr. Delmas is in any way bound to buy the plant, and he stands today in the position of having no plant. Again, on June 6th I received a letter from Mr. Delmas asking to withdraw his bid, and yesterday I received another letter asking to withdraw his letter of

withdrawal.

In considering the case, I gave but little weight to Mr. Moore's claim, that the two prices bid by Mr. Delmas was a serious if not a fatal defect. Looking into the matter further, it seems possible that it might establish a precedent that would cause trouble in other places. Mr. Delmas, I understand, has had absolutely no experience in dredging, but is to be assisted by his brother, Mr. Irving P. Delmas, who has been an inspector on dredging formerly done at Pascagoula River under this office, and whose reputation in that position is very good, indeed.

Considering all the circumstances, especially the lack of plant, experience, and vacillating character of Mr. Delmas, I feel compelled to recommend the rejection of his bid.

After having reached the decision to recommend rejection of the Delmas bid, I considered the best one, viz: that of the Rittenhouse Moore Dredging Co., of Mobile, Ala. Taking their price, 29c per cu. yd., the cost of the work, according to the yardage given in the specifications, will be \$252,010.00 as compared with a total of the Delmas bid, \$181,730.00, showing a difference of \$70,280.00.

This I think is too large and I have not felt willing to recommend the acceptance of this bid. There is, however, a paragraph in the bid of Rittenhouse Moore Dredging Co., offering to do the work for 23c per cu. yd., if allowed to dump the material "in satisfactory dumping grounds inside." Mr. Moore represents that this price is the one he proposes for the material in Horn Island Harbor, 200,000 cu. yds., which the specifications permit to be dumped inside (See paragraph 40 of the specifications) and also for the 21,000 cu. yds., from railroad bridge to

three miles above mouth of Dog River, as per estimate of Assistant Engineer T. P. Brown, which, by the specifications can be dumped behind Lowery and Dog Islands (See paragraph No. 40 of the specifications).

If I'd deduct from the total of the bid of Rittenhouse Moore Dredging Co., then, 6 cents per cu. yd., for these 220,000 cu. yds., it will make his bid less by \$13,200.00, or a total of \$238,810.00, or \$57,080.00 more than the Delmas bid. This is still a very large difference. The Rittenhouse Moore Dredging Co., now offer in addition to the above to take place measurements instead of scow measurements. As the yardage given in the specifications is based on place measurement and no allowance made for increase in scow, this will not reduce the amount of the bid, but if an allowance is made in the Delmas bid of say 25 percent increase, it will make it \$181,730.00 plus 25 percent, or \$227,162.50, which finally reduces the difference to \$11,648.50, or between three and four percent of the \$317,600.00 allowed for the work.

I recommend for acceptance the bid of the Rittenhouse Moore Dredging Co., at 23c per cu. yd., for materials excavated in Horn Island Harbor, and from railroad bridge to three miles above the mouth of the Dog River; and 29c per cu. yd., Pascagoula River from railroad bridge to Horn Island Harbor. All measurements to be for material in place instead of scow measurements, as per paragraph No. 44 of the specifications.

The originals of communications received, and copies of letters sent, in connection with this case are herewith inclosed.

Very respectfully,
(signed) Wm. T. Russell,
Major, Corps of Engineers,
U. S. A.

(Mississippi Economic Council)

"We spend thousands of dollars each year to attract industry to come to our state, but spend an inadequate amount for such things as street improvement, public health facilities and local government."

That statement was made by the director of the Mississippi Merit Community Program recently before a group of state sanitarians considering problems of municipalities. The Merit leader further stated:

"The day of enticing manufacturers to come to our state solely because of lower labor

costs, tax incentives and other programs is fast coming to an end. The real issue is whether our towns will meet the tests of good education systems, good equitable tax structure and a good business climate."

In other words, industries looking for new locations are pretty selective about picking towns in which to locate. This is one of the basic principles of the Merit Community Program—putting a community's house in order for new and expanded industry.

Fortunately, some 86 towns in Mississippi have measured themselves through the Merit Program, and know how they

stand in then basic categories of development. They know their weak and strong points, and can go about correcting weaknesses in a sound, systematic way.

Promoters of the program, including some 42 firms and agencies providing financial support and leaders working through the MEC, have held diagnostic clinics for centers in the population class of 2501 to 10,000, and 10,000 and over.

The merit program is one of the brightest spots in Mississippi's development efforts. The program is home-grown, inexpensive, and can be carried out without outside "experts".

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